

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR/MX

SUBJ: SINALOA OFFICER'S COMMENTS ON NARCOTICS

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF NOVEMBER 16 ARTICLE IN MEXICO CITY'S "EXCELSIOR" UNDER HEADLINE ENTITLED "RUIZ-ALMADA DECLARES VISIBLE CAUSE OF INCREASE IN THE CULTIVATION OF DRUGS IS DUE TO THE DEMAND OF DRUGS IN THE US."

THE SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF SINALOA, GILBERTO RUIZ ALMADA, TODAY POINTED OUT THAT THE DEMAND FROM THE U.S. MARKET FOR DRUGS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT VISIBLE CAUSE OF POPPY AND MARIHUANA CULTIVATION THAT EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY AND, ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR ALFONSO CALDERON VELARDE, IT HAS CREATED AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE AND VENGEANCE IN SINALOA WHICH HAS COST HUNDREDS OF LIVES.

RUIZ ALMADA AND CALDERON VELARDE THIS MORNING REFERRED TO THE NARCOTRAFFICKING PROBLEMS; THE FORMER IN A SPECIAL INTEVIEW AND THE LATTER IN HIS SECOND GUBERNATORIAL MESSAGE.

CALDERON VELARDE DEMANDED THE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM, AND EXPOUNDED THE NEED FOR THE ENACTMENT OF DEFINITE LAWS TO PROTECT OUR SOCIETY, A SOCIETY THAT IS DESPERATELY ASKING, AND RIGHTLY SO, THAT IT BE PROTECTED BY THE AUTHORITIES AT ALL LEVELS.

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THE STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE, WITH REGARDS TO NARCOTRAFFICKING IN SINALOA, SHOW THAT BETWEEN NOVEMBER, 1975 AND THE SAME MONTH THIS YEAR, 22,634 CROPS OF POPPY, PLANTED IN 54,545,000 SQ. METERS, AND 9,280 CROPS OF MARIHUANA, PLANTED IN 19,062,880 SQ. METERS, WERE DESTROYED.

RUIZ ALMADA EMPHASIZED THE NEED THAT THE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE PLANTING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS NOT BE INTERRUPTED.

THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTRAFFICKING IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY.

RUIZ ALMADA ADDED THAT THE PLANTING AND TRAFFICKING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IS A PROBLEM WHICH BELONGS TO ALL OF SOCIETY; THEREFORE, IT IS AN ERROR TO NAME THE STATE AS THE ONLY ONE RESPONSIBLE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT "THE SOLUTION TO THIS GRAVE PROBLEM WILL BE OBTAINED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL THE MEXICANS."

WITH REGARD TO THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM, RUIZ ALMADA SAID THAT DURING RECENT YEARS IT HAD DESCREASED DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAD DESTROYED MOST OF THE FIELDS IN SINALOA.

HE ALSO STATED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES IS RECOGNIZED NOT ONLY IN MEXICO BUT ALSO IN THE UNITED STATES.

HE ADDED THAT IT IS JUST AS NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE OTHER LAWS OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE AS THE PENAL MEASURES AGAINST NARCO-TRAFFICKERS WHICH WILL PERMIT THE UNEMPLOYED GROUPS TO INTEGRATE THEMSELVES IN THE INDUSTRIAL OR AGRONOMAL ACTIVITIES IN THOSE ZONES TRADITIONALLY DEVOTED TO MARIHUANA AND POPPY CULTIVATION... JOVA

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